



Congressman  
**Ken Calvert**

43rd District • California • February 1999

Dear Seniors:

On January 6, 1999, I took the oath of office as a member of the 106th Congress. We have a new Speaker of the House, J. Dennis Hastert from Illinois, who has pledged to work in a bipartisan manner with all members of Congress to accomplish the goals of the American people. Under Speaker Hastert's leadership, Congress is committed to doing the work of the people on time and under budget.

I am proud of the work that we did in the 105th Congress and the positive impact it has had on the lives of all Americans. From healthcare to retirement, crime to taxes, and education to the environment, the Republican-controlled Congress created a better America for our future and our children.

For the first time in 30 years the United States had a budget surplus of \$70 billion, interest rates plummeted, stock markets soared, and unemployment levels dropped to levels that economists once told us were impossible. The 106th Congress will continue to build on these achievements and help keep America strong well into the next century.

We have a lot to accomplish during the next two years, including saving Social Security, extending the solvency of Medicare, enacting serious tax reform and significant across-the-board tax relief that benefits all hard-working Americans. I am gratified that the 106th Congress is taking the lead in preserving Social Security and hope you will continue to keep me informed of your views as various solutions are introduced. In a bipartisan gesture, the first House bill has been officially reserved for the President's legislation on Social Security. Please be assured that I am committed to this legislative effort and will continue to work on issues that are important to today's seniors and future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Ken Calvert in red ink, written in a cursive style.

Ken Calvert



*The Goeske singers recognized Rep. Calvert for his legislative efforts on behalf of the Center. (L to R: Dina Weiss, Marian Erskin, Tony Dellis) see article, page 3*

*P.S. My Washington, DC office has moved! We are now located at 2201 Rayburn Building. Our telephone number is still (202) 225-1986, and my Riverside office is in the same location. You can also reach me on the Internet at [www.house.gov/calvert](http://www.house.gov/calvert) and e-mail me from this site.*

## Working for Seniors in Congress

Just weeks into the first session of the 106th Congress, several seniors'-related bills have already been introduced. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the following legislation:

### HR 107 — The Senior Citizen Tax Relief Act

- Repeals President Clinton's 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits.
- Repeals the earnings limit for Social Security benefits, which is currently \$15,500 for individuals.
- Repeals the taxes on estates and gifts.

### HR 86 — The Family Heritage Preservation Act

- Amends the Internal Revenue Code to repeal the estate tax, gift tax, and tax on generation-skipping transfers.

### HR 360 — Medicare Insulin Pump Coverage Act

- Requires Medicare coverage of the Insulin pump, a relatively new device that makes it easier for diabetics to control insulin.

## National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare

The Medicare Commission is charged with examining the care program and making recommendation to strengthen and improve it. Although Medicare will be solvent until 2008, a financial crisis looms when 77 million "Baby Boomers" begin eligible for Medicare and dramatically increase the demand for services.

Commission goals include improving Medicare so that it is responsive to the needs of beneficiaries; cost-effective for beneficiaries and taxpayers; gives beneficiaries a choice of providers and health plans; and, provides modernized benefits. The Medicare Commission must issue its report to the Congress and the Administration by March 1, 1999.



*Rep. Ken Calvert talks with Riverside County seniors about upcoming legislation to save Social Security and preserve Medicare.*

I have joined three caucuses in Congress who will

**Older Americans Caucus** — A clearing house for information, forming a consensus on issues currently 85 members

**Medical Technology Caucus** — Issues facing medical technology, life-saving, cost-effective, first meeting in the 106th coverage decision-making

**Diabetes Caucus** — The 10 million Americans with diabetes and diabetes-related

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## Janet Goeske Center Receives Funding

At my request, the fiscal year 1999 VA-HUD appropriations bill included \$750,000 for the expansion of the Goeske Senior and Disabled Citizens Center. The Center serves about 13,500 Riverside

County residents and, due to its extreme popularity, the Center is now at capacity and beyond. The City of Riverside has proposed expanding the Center by constructing an additional 12,000 square feet building adjacent to the Center, doubling its current size. In January, I had the honor of participating in a meeting at the

## Congressional Caucuses

congressional caucuses, comprised of a bipartisan group of my colleagues advocate seniors' legislation in the 106th Congress.

**us** — The Older Americans Caucus has two main functions: serve as a information about our aging population; and, serve an advocacy role by is along with introducing and tracking seniors legislation. There are rs of this bipartisan caucus.

**ucus** — This organization provides a forum for the discussion of critical al technology. The medical technology sector has generated countless ctive products that improve the quality of life for all Americans. The 06th Congress will focus on the Health Care Financing Administration's aking policies under Medicare.

is caucus is a bipartisan group committed to improving the life of the 16 with diabetes through supporting important research and funding for es-related complications.



*Councilwoman Joy Defenbaugh and Mayor Ron Loveridge thanked Rep. Ken Calvert for his efforts to secure federal funding for the expansion of the Goeske Center.*

Center to commemorate the expansion. I was pleased to have a chance to talk with many of the seniors who use the Goeske Center, as well as delight to the tunes of the Goeske Trio singers.



## Protect Yourself — Don't Be a Victim of Fraud!

According to 1997 U.S. Census estimates, 13.5 percent of Riverside County's population is over the age of 65. Unfortunately, many of today's con artists and scam makers target our seniors population. Fortunately, there is something you can do about it. First of all, be smart. If something sounds too good to be true, it almost always is.

Although most telephone sales calls are made by legitimate businesses offering legitimate products or services, there is no way to positively determine whether a sales call is on the up and up simply by talking to someone on the phone. Fraudulent sales callers have one thing in common — they are skilled liars and experts at verbal camouflage. Perpetrators of phone fraud are extremely good at sounding as though they represent legitimate businesses. One important thing to keep in mind if you are suspicious of a telemarketer is that victims of phone fraud seldom get their money back. Trust your instincts.

### Nine Tip-Offs That a Caller Could Be a Crook

- High pressure sales tactics
- Insistence on an immediate decision
- Offer sounds too good to be true

- A request for your credit card number for any purpose other than to make a purchase
- An offer to send someone to your home or office to pick up the money, or some other method such as overnight mail as a means to get your money more quickly
- A statement that something is "free" followed by a requirement that you pay for something
- An investment that is "without risk"
- Unwillingness to provide written information or references (such as a bank or names of satisfied customers in your area) that you can contact
- A suggestion that you should make a purchase or investment on the basis of "trust"

The Riverside County Office on Aging wants to help. They have started a consumer fraud helpline to help seniors protect themselves. The service can be reached at (800) 510-2020. This helpline will help educate seniors and the public about the different types of fraud, as well as track calls to aid the county in determining trends.

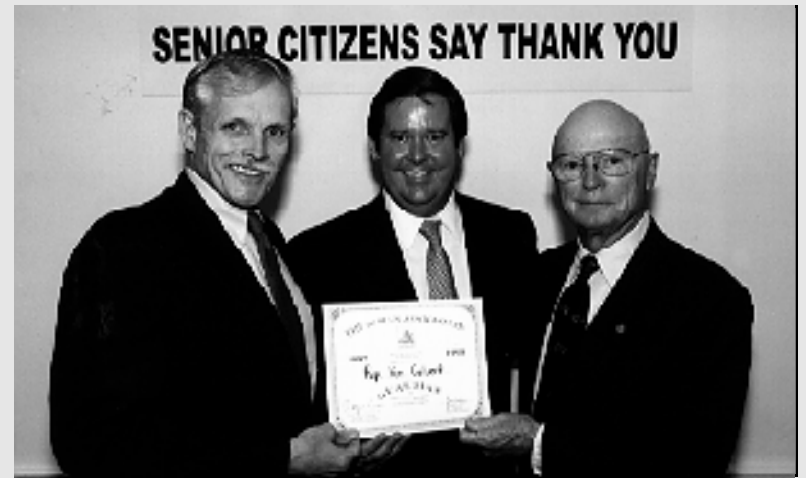
## Senior Citizens Say Thank You!

In a Capitol Hill ceremony, the 60-Plus Association — a non-partisan senior citizens group — has bestowed its highest honor, the Guardian of Seniors' Rights Award, on Rep. Ken Calvert.

He was given this award for being a faithful friend of seniors because:

- He always works hard to protect Social Security for today's retirees while at the same time saving it for tomorrow's retirees, our children and grandchildren.
- He is working to repeal President Clinton's 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits.
- He supported efforts to increase the exemption on, and/or repeal, the federal estate tax, or "death tax."

Rep. Calvert, who has won the award every time since it began in the 103rd Congress, is dedicated to lowering seniors' tax burdens and is a true champion of seniors in Congress.



*Rep. Ken Calvert received the Guardian of Seniors' Rights Award for his "senior friendly" legislative initiatives and efforts to save Social Security.*



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*Ken Calvert*  
M.C.  
Bulk Rate